

**WASHINGTON PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT**  
**Minutes of January 6, 2026**

A properly advertised Washington Parish Communications District Board meeting was held on January 6, 2026 at 54100 Dollar Rd., Franklinton, LA at 6:00 PM.

Members present were:	Mr. James Coleman	Chairman
	Mr. Danny Harris	Treasurer
	Mr. Brent Jones	
	Mr. Olander Smith	
	Mrs. Sarah Burris	

Members absent were:	Mr. Mike Stogner	Vice-Chairman
	Mrs. Cynthia August	Secretary

Others present were:	Joanna Thomas	Director
	Chase Anderson	Attorney
	Lesia Henry	WPSO

Chairman Coleman called the meeting to order at the appointed time of 6:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Mrs. Thomas called the roll. The results of that roll call are recorded above.

Mr. Coleman called for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the December, 2025, meeting. The minutes were emailed out to each member prior to this meeting. Mr. Harris made the motion to dispense with the reading of the December, 2025, meeting minutes. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Coleman called for a motion to approve the December, 2025, meeting minutes. Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the August, 2025, meeting minutes. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr..Smith made the motion to re-appoint the 2025 officers for the year of 2026. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

This office has been active during the month of November and December with both the normal daily operational issues of the office plus supporting our special projects.

### ***Daily Operational Issues***

All 9-1 dispatch positions are up and running. On November 23 an ATT outage brought down the 9-1-1 connection between the EOC and the other PSAPs.. In addition, the WPSO connection to their servers in Franklinton was interrupted. When this happens in the future, 9-1-1 calls will for all agencies will automatically be routed to WPSO, and a backup WPSO connection to their servers in Franklinton will automatically happen.

For the month of November we issued 28 new addresses:

Franklinton	14
Bogalusa	07
Pine	05
Varnado	01
Mt Hermon	01
Total	28

For the month of December we issued 8 new addresses:

Franklinton	04
Bogalusa	01
Pine	02
Varnado	01
Total	08

Mrs. Moore and Ms. Jones continue to work on the mapping.

The accounting system is working well. Jim and I continue to input the monthly financial data...

Mrs. Moore continues to do the addressing and both Mrs Moore and Ms Jones continue to work on map updates daily.

### ***Special Projects***

A request to change a portion of Marx Ave to Mrs. Robert Valeira “Jack” Payton Hicks has been received from a Bogalusa City Council Member. Mr. Coleman will comment on this request.

Ms. Jones and Mrs. Moore continue to work on improving the accuracy of our structure GPS location data on our maps.

The latest updates to our 9-1-1 map which includes the fire department zones to help the Sheriff Office dispatchers identify which zone within a fire district should be dispatched will be downloaded in January.

This has been an interesting and productive month for our office. I would like to thank the board for their support and input.

Mr. Coleman called for any questions concerning the Director's Report. Hearing none, Mr. Coleman called for a motion to accept and approve the Director's report. Mr. Harris made the motion to accept and approve the Director's Report as given. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### **Public 911 Education**

The District's web site was visited by 624 new users with 714 page hits in December, up from the previous month. Foreign users were from Singapore, Vietnam, China, Canada, Portugal, England, Senegal, Philippines and Woodbridge, Virginia (adjacent to CIA Headquarters).

There were no local usage of the Hyper-Reach Emergency Alert System during November or December . There were no National Weather Service usages of the system during the same time period.

### **Special Projects**

- The walls in the conference room and the dispatch room are being scuffed by chair backs. WPSO has volunteered to furnish the labor if the District will furnish the materials to install a chair rail and paneling to protect the wall.
- A Bogalusa City Council member is requesting that our 9-1-1 records and map be changed based on A Resolution To Honor Mrs. Robert Valeira "Jack" Payton Hicks By A Dedication Of 700 Block Of Marx Street To Her Memory passed by the city on October 15, 2024. Chase Anderson has been asked for guidance regarding this request.
- Gage Telephone has been asked to consider reducing their hourly professional services rates in exchange for a one year fixed cost agreement. Their current rates are:

IT Service - Non-Contract Rate \$185/Hr

IT Service – Premise Visit \$60/ Visit

IT Service - Non-Contract – Emergency Rate (Rate x2.5) \$462.50/Hr

For the year 2025 the following charges were incurred:

730 Man Hours -Standard Rate	\$ 135,050
48 Premise Visits	\$ 3,000
55 Man Hours -Emergency Rate	\$ 25,000
Total	\$ 163,000

- The following yearly existing maintenance agreements are due for renewal:
  - HigherGround      2026    \$ 3,945  
                                 2025    \$ 6,274
  - Solacom              2026    \$ 31,671  
                                 2025    \$ 25,631
  
- A draft Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the District, WPSO, WPG and the Washington Parish School System has been written, and is being reviewed by Bobbi Jo Breland and Chase Anderson. This agreement covers the use of the incident command room for the instruction of high school students.
  
- A draft Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the District, WPSO, and WPG and the Washington Parish School System has been written, and is being reviewed by Bobbi Jo Breland and Chase Anderson. This agreement covers the use of the incident command room during emergencies under the command of the Sheriff’s Office.
  
- Richard Lambert Consulting Engineers has finished the specifications and drawings for the new tower in Franklinton. A second review has been completed and after changes have been accomplished, the documents will be submitted for approval by the federal government and if approved, put out for contractor bid.

The District’s project related 2026 budget (capital and non-capital) is shown below:

**Capital 2026**

Replace 8 year old Audio Visual System		\$ 25,000
Install Updated Text to 911 Equipment		\$ 24,000
Replacement Tower, Communications, 911 Equipment		\$ 300,000

**Non Capital 2025**

Remove Microwave Dishes From Tower		\$ 5,000
Replace UPS Batteries in Main Building		\$ 15,000

## **Future Capital Projects**

Building Expansion		\$ 1,500,000 (Grant)
Security Fencing		\$ 170,000
Replace 8 year old Audio Visual System		\$ 130,000 (\$25,000 in 2026)

Mr. Coleman called for any questions concerning the Chairman's Report. Hearing none, Mr. Coleman called for a motion to accept and approve the Chairman's Report including the revisions to the project related budget items.. Mr. Harris made the motion to accept and approve the Chairman's Report including the revisions to the project related budget items. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Harris reviewed the November and December, 2025, financial statements, the income and budget statements, the check register, the cash receipts, cash disbursements, the account reconciliation statement, the YTD spending compared to the 2025 budget and the 911 funds statement.

Mr. Coleman called for a motion to accept and approve the Treasurer's report, the November and December, 2025, financial statements, the income and budget statements, the check register, the cash receipts, cash disbursements, the account reconciliation statement, the YTD spending compared to the 2025 budget and the 911 funds statement.

Mr. Harris made the motion to accept and approve the Treasurer's report, the November and December, 2025, financial statements, the income and budget statements, the check register, the cash receipts, cash disbursements, the account reconciliation statement, the YTD spending compared to the 2025 budget, and the 911 funds statement. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no committee reports.

## **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Harris made the motion to renew the 20256 maintenance agreements for HigherGround at \$ 3,945 and Solacom at \$ 31,671. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Harris made the motion to approve the purchase of materials to install a chair rail and wainscoting on the back sidewall of the conference room and the front sidewall of the dispatch

room, with installation by WPSO.: Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

Mrs. Burris made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote. Meeting of the Board adjourned at 6:30 PM.

As recorded by: Mrs. August.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Cynthia August, Secretary